

Establishment and Activities of the MEMS Industry Forum

Micro/nano/MEMS technologies are growing more and more essential for the strengthening of Japan's industrial competitiveness. Against this background, the MEMS Industry Forum (MIF) was established in April this year as a special council of the Micromachine Center.

A party to commemorate the inauguration of the MEMS Industry Forum was held on May 19 at the Shoko Kaikan Hall in Kasumigaseki, Tokyo. The approximately 70 participants included representatives of industry (full) members, associate members, affiliated organizations, MEMS fellows (individuals), and Forum advisers, and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

MEMS technology enables the creation of small, high-precision, high energy efficiency, high-performance devices; because these can be used as key devices in the expansion of various industrial fields, and because government-industry-university cooperation can be an effective means of developing MEMS technologies, party participants expressed high expectations for the future endeavors of the Forum as a core body promoting such development activities.



industrial expansion, such as basic technological development, foundry networks, industry-university cooperation, personnel training, formulation of regulation, standardization, and overseas expansion.

- (2) **Industry-University Cooperation:** The Forum will undertake to strengthen (through information exchange, etc.) communication and cooperation between study group activities related to cutting-edge technology status and second-generation technology issues; activities of cutting-edge technology exchange forums aimed at furthering industry-university exchange in the micro-nano field; and MEMS-related research organizations, societies, and university research laboratories within Japan.
- (3) **Activities to Enhance the MEMS R&D Infrastructure:** The Forum will promote personnel training activities through expansion and strengthening of the foundry network, diffusion and promotion of MEMS-ONE, implementation of MEMS lecture activities, and internship support.
- (4) **MEMS Business Domestic/International Exchange Activities:** The Forum will host "Micro/Nano 2006," a general event to promote business exchange at the Tokyo Forum according to the following schedule.

Nov. 6	The 2 nd Workshop on Characterization of Materials for MEMS/MST Devices (Venue: Mitsubishi Building Conference Square)
Nov. 7-9	17 th Micromachine Exhibition
Nov. 7	MEMS Forum
Nov. 8	12 th International Micromachine Nanotechnology Symposium
Nov. 9	MEMS-ONE Research Debriefing

The Forum will also establish a "MEMS Mall" that introduces catalogues of new products – such as MEMS devices, foundries, and manufacturing equipment – and new technologies in order to support the operation of the "MicroNano Net" as a forum for many government-industry-university people involved in the micro/nano field to come together on the Internet, as well as the invigoration of MEMS business. Furthermore, as the permanent secretariat for the Micromachine Summit – a forum for the free discussion of the current status and future expectations for education, technological trends, policies, and other micromachine/MEMS-related topics in various countries – the Forum will undertake a variety of activities to promote business exchange between companies, both within Japan and overseas, through participation in the Micromachine Summit and other micro/nano-related events both in Japan and abroad.

Organization and implementation of MEMS Industry Forum activities will be performed by three soon-to-be established committees – the Industrial Exchange Committee, International Exchange Committee, and Foundry Service Industry Committee – under the guidance of the MEMS Industry Forum Promotion Committee.

1. MEMS Industry Forum Activities

The MEMS Industry Forum comprises MEMS-related organizations at its core. In continuing cooperation with affiliated academies, regional bases, and overseas organizations, the Forum undertakes various activities – such as making MEMS policy recommendations to government bodies and other related organizations, industry-university cooperation, and industrial exchange/invigoration – through which it aims to support the further development of the MEMS industry and thereby to the strengthening of Japan's industrial competitiveness on the international stage.

The Main Activities of the MEMS Industry Forum are as follows.

- (1) **Policy recommendations:** The Forum will make recommendations to government bodies and other related organizations concerning basic issues affecting MEMS

